

# **FACT SHEET**

**Tri-State Mining District  
Cherokee County Superfund Site  
Baxter Springs, Kansas**



**March 2000**

## **PRELIMINARY WORK STARTS IN BAXTER SPRINGS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 is overseeing work at the Tri-State Mining District site in Baxter Springs, Kansas. The early work in the Baxter Springs area will begin in the spring of 2000. The work will consist of contacting property owners for access to areas that may undergo a future cleanup. The initial work may also consist of continuing to sample residential yards of properties located in former mined areas.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Tri-State Mining District is an inactive lead and zinc mining area that includes the Cherokee County Superfund site in Kansas. The Cherokee County site is listed on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is a list of the most serious hazardous waste sites in the country. These sites have been identified for remedial action under the Superfund program.

EPA signed a document called the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Baxter Springs subsite in August 1997. The ROD formally selected a cleanup plan to address surficial mining wastes and residential yard soils in former mining areas located west of Baxter Springs.

The ROD called for the stabilization and re-vegetation of mining wastes, removal of wastes from drainages, and the excavation and disposal of mining impacted residential soils. A health education program and institutional controls, such as local zoning or building ordinances for land use controls, were also put in place or planned.

### **SITE UPDATE**

The responsible parties will complete the work in Baxter Springs under the oversight of EPA and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). The work activities include cleanup of surficial mining wastes as well as residential yard soils impacted by mining activities.

We anticipate completing access, sampling and engineering design activities in 2000. The physical construction activities will begin in 2001.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The responsible parties' representatives will continue to notify land owners in the mined areas west of Baxter Springs in order to secure access for future cleanup work. Certain residences in the mined areas may also be sampled if they were not included in the previous residential sampling effort.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you need additional information, the Cherokee County, Kansas Superfund site Administrative Record is available for public review. The Administrative Record contains relevant site information concerning the Baxter Springs subsite. The Administrative Record is available during normal business hours at the Johnston Public Library, 210 West 10<sup>th</sup>, Baxter Springs, Kansas, and EPA Region 7, Superfund Records Center, 901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Kansas.

If you have questions about this fact sheet, or the site, please contact:

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